

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 MCT-01 SCA-01
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DRAFTED BY ARA:FJDEVINE:MPH
APPROVED BY ARA:FJDEVINE
ARA/AND/V - MR. SONANDRES
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 162529

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, US, VE

SUBJECT: NIEHOUS CASE -- ALLEGED CONTACT BETWEEN KID-
NAPPERS AND NIEHOUS FAMILY

REFERENCE: CARACAS 6883

1. IN ACCORDANCE PARA 3 REFTEL WE HAVE TELEPHONED COLEMAN
OF OWENS-ILLINOIS IN ATTEMPT VERIFY CITED "EL MUNDO" NEWS
STORY ON NEW CONTACT IN NIEHOUS CASE.

2. COLEMAN WAS AWARE OF THIS STORY AND TERMS IT SIMILAR
TO OTHER RECENT INSTANCES OF TABLOID TREATMENT OF NIEHOUS
CASE BUT FOR SOME REASON MORE WIDELY PUBLICIZED. US MEDIA
CONTACTED OWENS-ILLINOIS AND DONNA NIEHOUS ON BASIS THEREOF.

3. ACCORDING TO COLEMAN THERE IS NO BASIS WHATSOEVER FOR
THE STORY. THERE IS NO COUSIN NAMED ERNEST NIEHOUS AND
NO COUSIN RESIDING IN BALTIMORE. THE ENTIRE NEWS REPORT
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APPEARS TO BE A FABRICATION. COLEMAN TERMS THIS SOMETHING
OF A CRUEL HOAX WITH REGARD TO NIEHOUS FAMILY AND WONDERS
WHAT IF ANYTHING CAN BE DONE TO EXPLORE MOTIVATION, SOURCE,
ETC.

4. AS FAR AS NIEHOUS INVESTIGATION IS CONCERNED, COLEMAN

SAYS THERE ARE AT PRESENT NO MEANINGFUL CONTACTS, NO
DIALOGUE, AND NO NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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